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P O L A N D

MILITARY EXERCISES

In April largescale tactical exercises are scheduled to begin in East Europe in which the Soviet occupational troops, Rokosovski's Polish army, the East German people's police and the Czechoslovak army are to take part. The plans are that the German police forces will operate together with the Polish forces and East German units have already begun arriving in Poland. Other units of the East German police are to cooperate with Czech troops under Marshall Konev. The German police have got considerable quantities of tanks and artillery from the Soviets in February. Their training in the use of Russian arms began in September of last year under Russian instructors. In December large transports of Soviet arms began arriving in Poland: tanks, anti-tank artillery, anti-aircraft artillery and field guns, which is commented in the sense that Rokosovski has been ordered by Moscow to increase the number of Polish armoured troops. There are rumours about an armoured corps consisting of several divisions.

The number of Russian troops in East Germany is evaluated at about 600,000 at present, consisting of 28 divisions and 9 aircraft squadrons with about 900 planes in the first line. The 28 divisions consist of 11 armoured, one airborne, 2 elite infantry and 14 fully motorized infantry divisions. All are provided with the most up-to-date Russian weapons. Of the 900 planes 280 are modern long distance bombers and 340 jet fighters.

The exercises will be commanded by Marshall Rokosovski. A mission consisting of high Soviet generals, including Bulganin, is expected as observers.

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NEWSLETTER FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

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ENCLOSURES:

1. Open Letter from V. L. BORIN, editor of Pravda
2. Newsletter from Behind the Iron Curtain, containing reports of Communist activities in Eastern Europe and dated March 21, 1951.
3. Bulgarian National Committee News Summary dated March 25, 1951.

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Open Letter

from

V. L. Borin, editor of PRAVDA
204 Kensington Park Road, London W. 1

to

The Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Un-American Activities

Washington, D. C.

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DEAR SIR:

To support the struggle of all nations for freedom became a historical mission of the U.S. since President Lincoln won his struggle against slavery.

Freedom of nations is the principal question in the struggle of Central and South Eastern European nations against Bolshevik oppression.

To support their struggle means to repudiate imperialism of any kind and to recognize unconditionally the right of self-determination of all nations on this territory in their ethnographical boundaries and to assist them in their endeavor to form a federation of free nations.

Some prominent citizens of the U.S. and some officials of the U.S. State Department support the so-called Czechoslovaks and their organization, giving them a monopolistic position in the Grew Committee and in American broadcasting for Czechoslovakia. The top organization of the so-called Czechoslovaks was, until January 25th, 1951, the Council of Free Czechoslovakia.

To say "free Czechoslovakia," means to manifest a profound hypocrisy, or ignorance. "Free Czechoslovakia" means, not freedom for nations in Czechoslovakia, but freedom for Czech imperialists to oppress Sudeten Germans and Hungarians who in 1919 were forced against their will to live in Czechoslovakia; and to deny the right of self-determination to Slovaks who joined Czechoslovakia because full autonomy was promised them: This promise was never kept.

There are undoubtedly many refugees from Czechoslovakia who maintain that this country was a paradise and they are perfectly right from their personal point of view, for these were Czechoslovakian professional soldiers, state officials, and ruling politicians, who lost their paradise.

But the nations of Czechoslovakia, including the Czechs, do not wish to have anything in common with the paradise of the Czech imperialists and their state, which brought them from Nazi to Bolshevik occupation, from one great to another greater disaster. The nations of Czechoslovakia wish to live freely, on equal terms and in a large federation which would be able to protect their freedom.

The leading political party of Czech imperialists is the Czech National Socialist party of the late Benes, which differs from the German National Socialist party of the late Hitler in its attitude to Russia.

While the German National Socialists were violently anti-Russian, the Czech National Socialists were pro-Russian and consequently pro-Bolshevik, considering Russian Bolshevism (which for propaganda reasons is called Communism) as a new form of pan-slavism.

In this belief the Czech National Socialists became agents of Russian Bolshevism and during the war their so-called Czechoslovakian exiled Government was a Trojan Horse—a Bolshevik Fifth Column in Great Britain and in the U.S.

One of the leaders of the Czech National Socialists, Mr. Hubert Ripka, broadcast through the B.B.C. on November 7th, 1942, as follows: "The November revolution turned Russia into a modern state; technically militarily and politically a powerful sovereign state. That revolution did not only increase the strength of the Russian Soviet State but it also raised to greater heights than ever the standard of civilization, culture and living of the wide masses of the Soviet people."

This is not an accidental quotation: I can supply you with a hundred similar. In this spirit Czech imperialists spoke and acted during the war, making pro-Bolshevik propaganda among Americans of Czech origin and among Czech people in their motherland. As a result of their activities 40% of Czechs voted pro-Bolshevik in 1946.

In February 1948 the Czech National Socialist party split. The party itself still exists in Czechoslovakia, collaborates with the Bolsheviks and has its ministers in the present Czechoslovakian Government. Some leaders of this party emigrated abroad and their attitude changed apparently into an anti-Bolshevik one.

Under the chairmanship of the Czech National Socialist, Peter Zenkl, they established in Washington the so-called Council of Free Czechoslovakia. They represent nobody and nothing but their past mismanagement of Czechoslovakia and their desire for the restoration of their lost paradise.

They well know their real position and therefore they try to keep their power by political frauds and terror. They denounce all Czech democrats as well as Slovakian and Sudeten Germans as—fascists. Confidential and false denunciations against their democratic opponents have been their principal political weapon since 1939.

To give you concrete example of their activities I would like to call your attention to a camp for refugees from Czechoslovakia in Murnau, Germany, U.S. Zone. In this camp there were democratic Czechs, adherents of the Czech National Committee in London and democratic Slovaks adherents of the Slovakian National Council. During one year the adherents of the so-called Council of Free Czechoslovakia in Washington, made against their democratic Czech and Slovakian opponents in camp Murnau 241 denunciations. The U.S. authorities investigated all these denunciations and they all proved to be false. Such is the situation in every camp for refugees from Czechoslovakia in Germany.

I can give you an example of their activities in the U.S. Last year there arrived in the U.S. the Slovakian leader Sidor, who during the war was in disgrace with the German Nazis and was sheltered in the Vatican. An American columnist, Walter Winchell, started a public campaign against Sidor denouncing him falsely as a Nazi. When Mr. Winchell was compelled to say what he knew about Sidor, he confessed that he knew nothing whatsoever, and that he had received all his information from Congressman Klein. But Mr. Klein also confessed to know nothing about Sidor and he received all his information from Mr. Andrew Valushek.

Who is this gentleman? He is the editor of "New Yorkske Dennik," a Czech newspaper published in New York, which during the war was edited by two international Bolsheviks, Benson Batt and Desidar Benau, disguised as Czechoslovakian democratic refugees. Mr. Valushek is also the secretary of the American Fund for Czechoslovak refugees, Inc., 1775 Broadway, Room 607, New York 19. Among the sponsors of this organization are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Senator Herbert Lehman, Gov. Frank J. Lausche, Dorothy Thompson, and others. And Mr. Valushek is also in the executive Committee of the Anti-Nazi League whose pro-Bolshevik character is certainly well known to you.

On August 25th, 1950, the so-called Council for Free Czechoslovakia decided to make evidence of all refugees from Czechoslovakia in Germany. Their branch organization in Germany issued a circular No. 1010-201-Br. on August 31st, 1950, in which they stated as follows:

"The Council of Free Czechoslovakia is the only recognized representative of political refugees from Czechoslovakia. . . . We need evidence of all refugees from Czechoslovakia for their eventual transfer. The Governments, requested to take our refugees, ask that guarantee for every refugee concerning his political reliability be given.

"Those who refuse to sign our evidence questionnaire, keep under careful surveillance, and send to us their names. . . ."

People do not want to sign the questionnaire of the so-called Council of Free Czechoslovakia, because they do not wish to have anything in common with it, and they are afraid, considering how closely these gentlemen collaborated with the Russian Bolsheviks. Those who refuse to sign are falsely denounced to the U.S. and IRO functionaries and persecuted. On the ground of their false denunciation a Czech professor of law from Prague University was recently deprived of his D.P.'s card. They are forcing refugees from Czechoslovakia to sign in order to have "evidence" that a majority of refugees from Czechoslovakia are their adherents.

I can give you an example of how they deal with people who refuse to be their adherents. At Dijon, France, on September 7th, 1950, Karel Vasak, a Czech law-student from Dijon University, was arrested by the French Police as an agent of the Soviet Russian NKVD. His arrest caused a sensation in Dijon because Vasak was known as an ardent Catholic, very active in Catholic organizations. Therefore his case was publicized in the French press. According to the "Aurore" of September 12th, 1950, the constable who arrested Vasak told that newspaper's correspondent: "Vasak is either victim of a tragic mistake, or he is such a dissimulator as I have never met in my long police service." Thanks to some doubts which the police had, Vasak was not transported to Czechoslovakia, but was given the choice: Czechoslovakia or Algiers. Of course he chose Algiers, whither he was deported. Thanks to the interest of French Catholic circles his case was thoroughly investigated and "Le Monde" of September 16th, 1950, published an article under the heading: "Arrest of Karel Vasak was a result of rivalry between Czech students." In the meantime, the French police discovered that Vasak was an ardent anti-Communist, and that the accusation, made against him by two other Czechs, was false. But false also was the statement in "Le Monde," because Vasak was denounced by two adherents of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia in Washington.

Were the Surete National to go through their files, they would find that already in 1939 the officials of the Czechoslovakian National Committee of Mr. Benes had denounced all Czech and Slovakian anti-Communists in France to the French police as—dangerous Communist agents. This was at the time when this Czechoslovakian Committee was a covering organization for Bolshevik agents; when Mr. Ripka, in his office on 52 Avenue Bourdonais, was hiding an international Bolshevik agent, Simon Katz, wanted by the French police. After the collapse of France, the same Czechs and Slovaks who in France were falsely denounced as dangerous Communists, were then, by the same Benes adherents, confidentially denounced in Britain as Nazi agents and were imprisoned, without investigation, by the British. The Vasak affair in France is only a continuation of the late Benes' policy: it is the policy of Czech imperialists who allied themselves with the Russian Bolsheviks, adopted their methods of deceiving the enemy, and perfected them with typical Czech thoroughness.

On January 25th, 1951, there was in Washington a meeting of the so-called Council of Free Czechoslovakia, at which 17 members out of 30 passed a vote of censure against Peter Zenkl, the National Socialist chairman of the Council. Mr. Zenkl therefore declared that "the Council of Free Czechoslovakia had dissolved itself and ceased to exist" because "the party system proved unworkable and the delegates of the political parties had been unrepresentative anyway." This is the way in which Czech National Socialists understand democracy. Their conception of democracy does not differ from that of German National Socialists. Mr. Zenkl then formed a new organization, The Czechoslovakian National Committee. In this new Czechoslovakian Committee, Mr. Zenkl is obviously the chairman and among his prominent Czechoslovaks are Mr. Ripka, Papanek, Firt-Fuerth, General Ingr, Feierabend and the brother of the late President Benes.

No matter what they call themselves they cannot but continue the policy of the late Benes in deceiving the Western public and terrorizing political refugees from Czechoslovakia. They can do this only because they are sponsored by some prominent Americans and officials of the U.S. State Department who I am sure mean well, but are not informed. And many disasters have happened because of the policy of some Americans who were not informed about Europe and Russian Bolshevism.

I would like to call your attention to the fact that the activities of these Czechoslovaks are in contradiction to the U.S. principles of democracy and the U.S. historical mission in the world. In spite of this, they are supported by American finances, they have monopoly in broadcasting from the U.S., and the effect on people in Czechoslovakia is absolute failure. They have assistance of the U.S. authorities in Germany and also of the IRO authorities. Their organizations have the monopoly in informing the authorities of Western Governments about refugees from Czechoslovakia and, with their assistance, arranged the emigration to the U.S. (as well as to Australia, New Zealand and other countries) of people who have never been Czechoslovakian citizens and refugees. Therefore I think that their activities deserve the attention of the United States Senate Committee on Un-American Activities.

London, February 12, 1951.

Yours faithfully,

V. L. BORIN.

65-32871-79



BULGARIAN *National Committee*

"FREE AND INDEPENDENT BULGARIA"

NEWS SUMMARY

March 25, 1951

724 - 9th Street, N.W.

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BULGARIA IN FEBRUARY 1951

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

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Cultural Convention between Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia

On February 16, 1951, a protocol has been signed at Sofia for the application of the Cultural Convention for 1951, between Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. On behalf of the Bulgarian Communist government the protocol has been signed by the President of the Committee for Science, Culture and Arts, Prof. Sava Ganovsky, and on behalf of the Czechoslovak Communist government by the President of the Czechoslovak Delegation, Ludmir Civrni. The protocol provides for the exchange between the two countries of professors, academicians, writers, opera singers and delegations of artists, as well as a more extensive propaganda for cooperation between the two countries for the building of the new socialistic culture.

According to the declarations of the Czechoslovakian delegate, Ludmir Civrni, deputy Minister of Information, in 1950, in Czechoslovakia have been translated more than 30 Bulgarian books and the greatest interest has been aroused by the works of the Bulgarian academician, the known Communist Todor Pavlov. (Zemedelesko Zname of February 17, 1951.)

Ratification of Convention between Bulgaria and Soviet Russia

On February 26, 1951, in the Bulgarian Communist Embassy at Moscow has taken place the exchange of the ratification instruments of the Convention for the protection of the agricultural cultures in the two countries, signed in Sofia on August 25, 1950. The Convention has been ratified by the Communist government of Bulgaria on January 2, 1951, and by the Soviet government on February 10, 1951. (Zemedelesko Zname of February 28, 1951.)

Bulgarian Communist "Peace" Delegation in Berlin

The Bulgarian Communist delegation to the conference of the World Council of the partisans of Peace, which started on February 21, 1951, in Berlin, was composed of the following: Prof. Georgi Nadjakov - President of the Committee of the Partisans of Peace in Bulgaria, Prof. Ludmil Stoyanov and Prof. Methodi Popov, representing the Bulgarian National Committee for the Defense of Peace. (Zemedelsko Zname of February 21, 1951.)

LEGISLATION

Third Regular Session of Communist "First National Assembly"

The Communist "First National Assembly" started its third regular session on February 1, 1951. The third session was characterized by its brevity in spite of the fact that important laws had to be voted upon, such as the Persons and Family Law and the Penal Law. The speed with which the Assembly voted these so very important laws - in a period of two days - shows the typical "planning" of the dictatorial regimes, on the one side, and the subservience of the "people's representatives" to their bosses, on the other side.

Soviet Penal Law for Bulgaria

On February 2, 1951, the Assembly voted "unanimously" a new Penal Law for Bulgaria. With the voting of this law, the Communist regime almost completed the passing of the "new" basic laws. Till the present date we have the following important judicial and constituent laws:

- a) Inheritance Law
- b) Persons and Family Law
- c) Obligations and Contracts Law
- d) Cooperative Law
- e) People's Courts Law
- f) Prosecution Law
- g) Penal Law
- h) Property Law-to be passed soon.

Just like all the other laws passed after the enforcement of the "Dimitrov's Constitution" the new Penal Law represents a copy of the Soviet Criminal Code of 1926, the Soviet judiciary doctrine and the Soviet judiciary procedure.

".....as samples for its preparation, says the Minister of Justice, Radi Naidenov, in his speech while defending his project in the National Assembly, have served the Criminal Code of the Soviet Union, the new Czechoslovak Penal Law and the Soviet doctrine and judicial procedure.

The basic principles on which the Law has been elaborated are socialistic and the problems have been solved and established from the dialectical-materialistic point of view."

The representative in the Assembly, P. Tantchev, spoke in the same vein, namely:

"The new project for a Penal Law springs from the basic principles of our Constitution and from the principles of the Soviet, Socialist Penal Law, and the Criminal Code of the Soviet Union of 1926, has been used with all its amendments and supplements." (Zemedelsko Zname of February 3, 1951.)

From the speeches of the representatives in the Assembly on the project for the Penal Law, as well as from the text of the same, transpires very clearly its pre-judicial class character and the conception that it is a "sharp tool in the hands of the government of the Socialist state", according to the words of the Minister of Justice, himself.

"....We declare, says he, that our new Legislative Law has a class character and it is a Law which defends openly and honestly the interests and the aspirations of the working people...."

In that respect even more explicit is the representative, P. Tantchev, from the Communist Agrarian Union, who says:

"....This Law is a powerful tool in the hands of our government against the fierce and desperate resistance of the class enemy.

....With its provisions in parts 3 and 4, adds the Minister of Justice, the new Penal Law appears as a mighty instrument for the liquidation of the remains of Capitalism and a expedient arm in the fight for the socialistic-economic re-organization of society.....

Article 98 of the new Penal Law, which is characteristic of the Cominform legislation of the Bulgarian Communist government, stipulates:

"The punishments, provided for in this part of the Law, can be imposed also on persons who have committed any one of these crimes, (Editor's note: treason, betrayal, spying, etc.) against another State of workers or against a military force, which is fighting as an ally of Bulgaria."

Special Penal Law

During the same third session, the National Assembly has voted on February 2, 1951, a special Law for the punishing of specialists in the mines who have left their jobs without a legitimate excuse.

This Law is a clear indication of the working conditions in the "country - paradise for the workers" and of the way they are treated by the "people's government".

Ministry Re-Named

With a decree of February 2, 1951, the Communist government has re-named the Ministry of Electrification and Meliorations and named it Ministry of Electrification.

PLANNED ECONOMY

Finance:

Loan for Development of National Economy

The "People's Loan" whose floating was proposed on January 12, 1951, supposedly by the workers in the Railroad Engine Plant "Georgi Dimitrov", changed its phisionomy only two-weeks after its proclamation and became a "Loan for Development of the National Economy", the purpose being to hide the secret intentions of the Bulgarian Communist government and its Soviet sponsors.
(See News Summary No. 11 of February 27, 1951.)

With a decree, issued by the Ministerial Council and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist party, the Loan has been authorized and the subscriptions have been started on the same date. The Loan amounts to 10 billion levas, carries a 5% interest and would be paid in twenty years by two drawings annually. From 1957 to 1961, 40 million levas would be repaid; from 1962 to 1966 - 60 million levas; from 1967 to 1971 - 100 million levas; and the remainder on October 1, 1972.
(Zemedelsko Zname of February 3, 1951.)

The Loan has been covered in three days and the subscriptions have amounted to 15 billion 5 million and 112 thousand levas, that is to say the fixed amount of the Loan has been surpassed by 5 billion 5 million and 112 thousand levas.

The reasons for the achieved "stakhanovist" successes for pocketing the present and the future national financial possibilities find their explanation in the following basic facts:

1. Lawlessness - In spite of the fact that there has been no governmental resolution, the subscription has started since January 12, 1951, and has been carried on by more than 9,300 organizations and some 10,707 special committees.
2. Pressure - The communists have used the tried method of compulsory subscription and of apportioning arbitrary sums to different individuals. They have used extensive propaganda, examples of which are the following slogans:

Let my pennies be a bullet in the heart of the enemy.

Every penny subscribed is a blow against the followers of Tito and the Greek Monarcho-Fascists.

All these facts show very clearly the atmosphere which has prevailed while the subscriptions have been going on, as well as the nature of the Loan and the purposes which it is meant to serve.

3. Fraud - Subscriptions for the Loan have been gathered by obligatory deductions from the salaries, the pensions and even from the subsidies of Bulgarian students, studying in Soviet Russia and Czechoslovakia. The savings of all the rest of Bulgarians would surely be melted in this so-called "Free" Loan. All these facts show clearly on what basis is construed the Loan and it can very easily be characterized as a Loan for "Hundred Percent Financial Enslavement" of the Bulgarian people for a period of twenty years.

Sabotage

The new Communist Penal Law is a clear indication of the constant and increasing resistance of the large majority of the Bulgarian people and the need that the Communist regime has felt for coining stricter laws for combatting the sabotage activities of the population.

Recently this class struggle has become evident in the following fields:

1. Military Resistance - On December 15, 1950, 34 partisans, fighting against the Communist regime, went on trial before the regional court in Pazardjik. They were members of the first large armed group in the vicinity of Pazardjik (Southern Bulgaria) whose comrades were killed during the few fights between the partisans and the superior in number Communist police forces.

Of the defendants seven have been sentenced to death, four to life imprisonment and the rest have been given long prison terms. (The Communist daily "Otechestven Glas", published in Plovdiv, of December 16, 1950, and "Free and Independent Bulgaria", published in Munich, Germany, of January 30, 1951.)

2. Political Resistance - Purge in the Communist Agrarian Union.

During the month of February, 1951, a large number of leaders and members of the Communist dominated Agrarian Union were kicked out because of their political unreliability. Thus, according to Zemedelsko Zname of February 17, 1951, only in the district of Stara Zagora and the city itself, the local branch of the Communist Agrarian Union has fired hundreds of its members, headed by the president of the local Agrarian Union's branch, Manol Denev, because they had carried on "enemy and anti-Union activities".

On the other hand, Zemedelsko Zname of February 13, 1951, writes that the Kulaks have started changing their tactics and have begun joining en masse the newly established Collective farms, so that they could sabotage their work from within. For such activity only in the district of Vidin, the authorities have kicked out of the Collective farms 17 Kulaks.

Economic Resistance

A) Food Supplies - Hardly a month after the creation of the new "Ministry of Deliveries and Food Industry", headed by the former Minister of the Interior, (Police) Rousi Hristozov, there were indications that all is not well in that field, for example:

Zemedelsko Zname of February 4, 1951, wrote:

....A number of officials have been punished for their negligence in preserving the food stuffs in good condition. More than 250 state employees have already been fired. Enemies of the regime have been able to infiltrate the Head Office of Food Supplies. 40 officials of the "Ministry of Deliveries and Food Industry" have been found out to be disloyal.

B) State Deliveries - In connection with the State Deliveries, Zemedelsko Zname of February 18, 1951, writes:

In many places, especially in Northern Bulgaria, and in the districts of Yambol and Botevgrad, enemy and kulak elements hide and do not deliver to the State large quantities of tobacco....

C) Commerce - The resistance in the field of commerce expresses itself in the following:

Unwarranted absenteeism
Selling at higher prices
Impolite attitude towards the customers and the officials
Closing the shops before the fixed hour
Unsanitary conditions in the establishments
Systematic late reporting to work
Selling on credit, etc.

(Zemedelsko Zname of February 16, 1951.)

....For breaking rules, established by the Section "Commerce and Distribution of Food Stuffs" during 1950 there have been imposed fines, amounting to 8,500,000 levas.....

(Zemedelsko Zname of February 2, 1951.)

From the preceding facts it becomes clear that the resistance movement, expressing itself in sabotage and enmity against the Communist regime, slowly but surely grows into an epidemic social phenomenon, englobing the large popular masses who will not fail to say their final word when the time is ripe.

MILITARY

Celebration of Anniversary of Soviet Army in Communist Bulgaria

This year the 33rd anniversary of the Soviet army was celebrated by the Bulgarian Communist party and the Communist government of Vulko Tchervenkov with an unveiled manifestation of the total subordination and tutelage of the Bulgarian army by the Soviet army.

As early as February 17, 1951, Radio Sofia in its broadcast, dedicated to this anniversary, prepared the ground for the celebration by slogans and reports, as follows:

...Our people's army, which has sprung from the roots of the working class, greets this anniversary with the pledge for a more uncompromising fight against the imperialists and for a comprehensive mastering of the battle experiences of the Soviet army.....

In the same broadcast were heard also the following "declarations" of soldiers from the Bulgarian army:

....Six years ago I greeted with great emotion and joy the members of the Soviet army who marched in our country. I was pining for the moment when I would be able to enter in the ranks of the Bulgarian people's army... Now that my wish has been fulfilled, I master every day the Soviet military science and strategy... I learned to use perfectly my weapons and in this I was helped by the Bulgarian Communist party and the Union of the Dimitrov's Youth.

.... I am training military specialists in the barracks. Before us is always present the legacy of comrade Georgi Dimitrov: - learn night and day, learn constantly from the strategy and the military science of the Red army, learn from the Stalinist military art of the Soviet army... I am training soldiers under the guidance of the Bulgarian Communist party and the Union of the Dimitrov's Youth.... I train them not only to be able to manipulate with their weapons but also to be able to know and hate the enemies - the Anglo-American imperialists and their lackeys: - Titoists, the Greek Monarcho-Fascists and the Turkish reactionaries and to love our Dimitrov's country, the leader of our nation Vulko Tchernvenkov, the countries with peoples' democracies, the brotherly Soviet Union and the leader and teacher of the entire progressive humanity - comrade Stalin.

The official part of the celebration of the 33rd anniversary of the Soviet army has taken place in the Central Club of the Bulgarian people's army in Sofia, on the eve of February 22, 1951. After the execution of the new Bulgarian Communist Anthem and the Anthem of the Soviet Union, the recently appointed Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, General Ivan Michailov, has spoken on the "Military might of the Soviet Union" and has said among others:

.... The Bulgarian working people and the people's army thank the Soviet army for the freedom that it brought to our country and for the invaluable help that it gave us to defeat the attempts of the international reactionaries and for the solidifying of the people's regime....

.... Only the mean and traitorous clique of Tito does not want to admit the great merits of the Soviet army for the liberation of the European nations, including the peoples of Yugoslavia.

.... Let us increase our alertness. Let us brandish all chauvinism and nationalism from our midst. Let us put to shame and punish all the traitors and spies - the agents of the imperialists from the band of Traicho Kostov. Let us make of our army a worthy ally of the great Soviet army....

Long live the greatest military leader and strategist of our era, the greatest and untiring fighter for peace, the teacher and leader of the workers of the whole world, the teacher and leader of our nation - Joseph Visarionovitch Stalin!

(Zemedelsko Zname of February 23, 1951.)

PROPAGANDA

The Big Lie

True to the techniques of their masters, the Bulgarian Communists spare neither space nor efforts in their "free" press to live up to the maxim - "black is white and white is black". Thus, by now anyone who is even slightly familiar with the question of the forced expulsion of 250,000 Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin has an idea of the conditions under which live the Turks in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, along side the enslaved Bulgarian people. But let us see what an article in Zemedelsko Zname of February 1, 1951, under the heading "Cares for Turkish Minority" has to say among others:

..... In our country there are no Turks that do not own property. Thanks to the Agrarian reforms carried out by the People's government 13,000 small landowners and other Turks with no land whatsoever were given such. The song of the tractors could be heard even in the meadows of the Turkish population.

The new agrarian technique enriched, also, their lives....

If it were not so tragic it would have been humorous. The Communists lie so much that they get caught in their own lies. So, the Turks in Bulgaria were given lands as their personal property! This, mind you, comes about when the Communists in Bulgaria carry on a merciless campaign for the collectivization of the land. The Communists are taking the lands away from their owners and not distributing them. All this is pure and simple Communist propaganda. Later in the article it is said:

.... The well organized public libraries and reading-rooms are filled with the newest and best books in Turkish. In their premises the working Turks read the works of their beloved writers and poets, namely Nazim Hikmet, Sabahattin Ali and others.....

It is worth our while, though, to know who are the men whose books they are allowed to read: - Nazim Hikmet is a Turkish Communist who has been in prison since 1920 and who was set free only two years ago; Sabahattin Ali was a Communist newspaperman who edited a scandal sheet in Istanbul and who was shot last year in a brawl in a night-club in the same city. These are the Turkish authors that the "benevolent" Communist masters allow their citizens of Turkish origin to read.

SABOTAGE

Economic Sabotage

It is reported that:

The following persons from the village of Dimitrovtshe, district of Svilengrad, have been fined by the Communist authorities because they had not delivered to the State the prescribed quotas of foodstuffs:

Georgi Fotev Markov - 20,000 levas
 Vasil Teodoshev Tcholakov - 5,000 levas
 Atanas Atanasov Kavgazov - 20,000 levas
 Hristo Kakatchev - 20,000 levas
 Georgi Kavgazov had been detained 48 hours by the Militia because of a delay in fulfillment of his assigned quota.
 Atanas Stoyanov Kavgazov had been imprisoned for a week because of his inability to fulfill his quota.

Panaiot Ivanov Delivanov had been beaten by the Communist Gospodin Grozev and all the foodstuffs from his household had been seized.

Miltcho Fotev had been arrested and kept for 48 hours in the basement of the Municipality because he had not delivered his assigned quotas.

Paskal Atanasov had been fined 5,000 levas because he had not had the seed to plant the land designated by the Communist plan.

Foti Yanakiev Fotev had been forced to buy and deliver to the authorities 40 lbs. of sunflower seed instead of his quota of milk from his sterile cow.

For the same offenses have been punished, also, the following persons from the village of Madretz, district of Harmanli:

Ivan Tanev had been fined 10,000 levas and all his produce had been confiscated.

All the produce of wheat, 4,000 kilos, of Ratcho Ivanov had been confiscated and he had been forced to buy on the free market 4,000 kilos of wheat, so that he could deliver to the authorities the quota assigned to him.

All the foodstuffs of the families of Kolio Michailov, Dobri Stankov, Hristo Maleshkov and Kosta Maltiev had been confiscated and as a punishment all their ration cards had been taken away.

Ratcho Ivanov and Kosta Melakov had been fined 10,000 levas each and Stoyan Dimitrov Mogilkov - 5,000 levas, because they had failed to deliver their assigned quotas of cotton. Everything to the last grain of food from the home of the latter had been seized by the authorities while he had gone to the city to take his wife to the hospital.

From the village of Raikova Mogila, district of Haskovo, had been fined and robbed Kostadin Margushev, Hristo Dimitrov Stoev and the 60-years old Vasil Mitrev had been arrested and forced to leave the village with his whole family - all his property being confiscated by the authorities.

NEWSLETTER FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Reports on Communist Activities in Eastern Europe



Compiled by: THE BALTIC REVIEW, POST-BOX 724, STOCKHOLM 1, SWEDEN

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U S S R

PUBLIC AND SECRET STATE RESERVES

A week ago the Supreme Soviet of the USSR approved the state budget for 1951. In the following we propose to examine the revenues this budget provides for. In comparison with last year, these revenues are to be as follows:

	1950		1951		
	Planned		Planned		
	Milliards of rubles	Percent-age	Milliards of rubles	Milliards of rubles	Percent-age
Total revenues	433.2	100.0	422.1	458.7	100.0
whereof:					
Turnover tax	239.1	55.2	236.1	244.7	53.4
Profit tax	40.0	9.2	40.4	47.2	10.3
Taxes on population	36.4	8.4	35.8	43.4	9.5
State loans	31.8	7.3	31.0	33.4	7.3
Other revenues	85.9	19.9	78.8	90.0	19.5

As evident from this table, the actually collected revenues were somewhat lower last year than stipulated by the plan. Turnover tax was not collected to the extent provided for. It is no coincidence that in its report on the fulfilment of the state plan in 1950 the Central Board of Statistics at the Council of Ministers omitted to mention the percentage of fulfilment in the case of the ministry for trade. It seems that the Soviet population did not obtain the quantity of consumer goods promised to them under the plan.

Furthermore, the fact must be noted that in 1950 the plan was not fulfilled either as regards taxes on population or state loans. Nevertheless, the plan for 1951 provides for a considerable increase of revenues from both the taxes on population and the state loans. How can this be explained?

A. G. Zverev, the minister for finances, said in his report on the state budget that the increase of revenues from taxes on the population "is explained by the increase of the wage fund of workers and employees. Furthermore, the curtailment of the exemptions enjoyed by certain groups with regard to income tax has been taken into consideration" (PRAVDA, March 8, 1951). This means that income tax is to be increased. Zverev does not mention the groups which have hitherto enjoyed exemptions.

As is generally known, money wages have not only not been raised in the Soviet Union during recent years but lowered by means of periodical increases of the quantity of work (norm) to be executed in order to keep earning the same wage. Therefore the increase of the wage fund of workers and employees can take place only through an increase of the number of these latter. In the course of one year this number cannot increase by more than 3-5 per cent (the latest five year plan (1946-1950) provided a yearly increase of 1.25 million persons or 3-4 per cent). Consequently the greater part of the increased revenues from taxes on the population (let us say 7-9 per cent of the provided increase of 12 per cent as compared to 1950) must be obtained from increased taxes. Hence the groups of population now losing the right to exemptions from the whole or part of their income tax must be rather large.

As far as is known, the income tax law hitherto provided for two more substantial exemptions, viz.,

a) workers and employees having to provide for more than three members of their families had their income tax reduced by 30 per cent;

b) workers and employees with an income exceeding 1000 rubles monthly paid an income tax of 82 rubles plus 13 per cent on the part of their income exceeding 1000 rubles. At the same time persons exercising a free profession (authors, artists, etc.) were taxed progressively even when their income was larger than 1000 rubles monthly.

The first of these exemptions eased the situation of persons with large families, the second favoured workers capable of doing several norms of work and thereby creating the prerequisites for a general raising of the norm for all, i.e., a new wage cut. These were the groups Zverev probably had in mind when speaking of the curtailment of the privileges of certain groups.

An item in the budget also deserving special attention are the "other revenues" in the above table. They constitute about 20 per cent of the total revenues but Zverev says nothing about their derivation. Why are they kept secret? Are they perhaps the reparations paid to the USSR by Finland, e.g., and other defeated countries, or factory installations from Germany, which logically should also be registered as revenues?

If one compares the Soviet budgets of 1950 and 1951 with the budgets of earlier years, it becomes apparent that at present social insurance levies from enterprises are no longer listed among revenues. In 1948 and 1949 they constituted about four per cent of the total revenues in the budgets. If these four per cent

are deducted from the item "other revenues" about 16 per cent remain. This is approximately the same proportion of the revenues the nature of which has not been made public in the prewar budgets. In 1938, e.g., "other revenues" constituted 13 per cent of the total, in 1939 14 per cent, etc. Hence the reparations collected by the USSR apparently do not figure in its budget at all but are probably turned over to some special funds immediately. Funds suitable for this purpose are, e.g., the ministry for food reserves and the ministry for material reserves. In 1946 the following was said about these two ministries:

"Comrade Stalin has repeatedly pointed out the necessity of laying up state reserves. Our national economy experienced the advantageous influence of state reserves to the full extent in the years of the Fatherland War. To execute the programs of laying up reserves and using them correctly the Ministry of Food Reserves and the Ministry of Material Reserves were established recently." (Of the Five Year Plan for the Rehabilitation and Development of the National Economy of USSR in 1946-1950. Material for lecturers and propagandists. Published by the Higher Party School at the CC of the All-Union CP. N.D., p.40)

This quotation shows by the way that already in 1946, when establishing these two new ministries, the Soviet government was making preparations for a new war, a circumstance we have pointed out on earlier occasions.

As regards the abovementioned 16 per cent of the total revenues figuring in the budget, they may include custom duties which usually do not exceed 2 per cent of the total revenues in the USSR. The origin of the remaining 14 per cent is a mystery on which no data are available. We venture to suggest that the lion's share of these mysterious revenues come from the MVD, i.e., from the slave labour camps where millions of prisoners work for no other pay than a very small quantity of inferior food. If this were not so, why does the Soviet government not admit the source of these revenues?

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SOVIET SNAPSHOTS

On the Road of the Lenin-Stalin Party

SOTSIALISTICHESKOYE ZEMLEDELIE (Feb.28, 1951) devotes a long article to "substantial" successes of Soviet farming:

"In 1950, as compared to 1949, the total area under all cultures increased by 6.6 million hectares whereof under wheat 1.7 million hectares... In 1949 the total harvest of grain cultures constituted 7.6 milliard puds" (one pud = 35 lbs).

A little lower in the same article the paper remarks:

"In 1950 the total harvest of grain cultures in the USSR constituted 7.6 milliard puds."

In a word, successes are "substantial" even if 6.6 million hectares of additional fields did not yield a single additional pound of grain.

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Transport Again

VOPROSY EKONOMIKI (No. 11, 1950, released for print Feb. 2, 1951) says among other things in an article on the "increase of rentability on the railways:"

"On a number of railways many irrational transports are executed still. E.g., to this day sleepers from the station Taishet of the East Siberian railway are carried to certain sections of the Moscow-Donbas railway... No end has been put yet to the long distance transports of timber: e.g., it is conveyed from the South-West or Gorki railway to the Urals, which makes an unnecessary displacement of 4000 kilometres. Great are the irrational displacements of building materials... The ministry for enterprise building of the heavy industry of the USSR sometimes sends bricks over distances longer than 1,500 kilometres."

Indeed, the opportunities for improvement seem almost unlimited in a planned economy. Hitherto they have not been taken.

Socialist Service

"A pretty carpet covers the staircase leading to the barber's salon on the second floor of hotel "Moskva". However, the visitor stops in unpleasant amazement on the threshold of the salon. In front of him are shabby armchairs, decrepid toilet tables. Dust lies on the window sills, the working tables, the lamps under the ceiling.

If not anywhere else, at the hotel "Moskva" the visitor is entitled to expect cultured service. However, the book of complaints and suggestions is not full of praises. It mentions long queues and the rudeness of the assistance. The administration does not provide the assistants with the necessary materials. In the cosmetic cabinet, e.g., there is no lanoline. To tractable customers the assistants offer to execute the proper operations with their "own material" but for a "special" remuneration. The manicure girls get lacquer of only two colours - white and pink. It is possible to paint your nails in other colours but only with "private lacquer" of the assistant and for a higher cost.

The workers of the salon have made a habit of these "special remunerations." This practice is not combated.

The assistants at the barber's salon of hotel "Moskva" participate in a Socialist competition for model service of the customers. The collective has concluded an agreement with the workers... of the billiard room. It is difficult to understand in what way they are competing."

(VECHERNIAIA MOSKVA, January 24, 1951)

ESTONIA

OFFICIAL

RAHVA HÄÄL of March 1 reports that Aleksander Rosev, minister for interior affairs, has been relieved of his duties and Juhan Lombak appointed in his stead.

CHIEF PROPAGANDIST SACKED

The 11th plenary session of the CC of the Estonian CP, which took place in Tallinn shortly before February 21 (RAHVA HÄÄL, Feb. 21) relieved Aleksander Kelberg, the CP secretary for propaganda and member of the Party bureau, of these his duties and appointed to these offices Leonid Lontsman, hitherto minister for education.

Both Kelberg and Lontsman were comparatively new at their jobs. Kelberg became CP secretary after the great purge of April 1950, which did away with a large number of CP and government functionaries and economic leaders. The majority were Communists of Estonian nationality and the charge against them was either "bourgeois nationalism" or the inability to eradicate "bourgeois nationalism" in the people. They were deported or liquidated and new men appointed.

To Aleksander Kelberg, who became only the third secretary of the Estonian CP, fell nevertheless that most arduous task, to direct the propaganda of the Party. He was to turn the Estonians into Communists, fire them with enthusiasm for the Soviet regime, the "great Russian people", the "beloved leader" Stalin and the kolkhoz system, teach them to hate the capitalist order and their entire past history, abhor the "Anglo-American war mongers" and gladly sacrifice the necessities of life for the consolidation of the war potential of the Soviet Union. The mission of the propaganda leader was to reshape the entire mental life - literature, art, music, science - in a spirit proscribed by Moscow, crush every vestige of free self-expression, "extirpate the relics of capitalism" from the minds of the Estonians and turn them into Soviet citizens.

There is no doubt that Aleksander Kelberg did all in his power to please his masters. Propaganda meetings rolled over the country in wave after wave, every opportunity for free thought was methodically sought out and eliminated, the few remaining prominent writers and artists silenced and replaced with new people who engaged Socialist competitions to make up panegyrics to Stalin, the Russian people, the Soviet giant constructions and the kolkhoz system, propaganda against the Anglo-Americans was conducted with unprecedented violence.

Despite all efforts, this propaganda has left the Estonians cold. Silent and contemptuous they listen to what their masters tell them but remain unchanged in their hearts. CP ravings against "bourgeois nationalism" and "pandering to the West" are not abating but getting even more hysterical. Dumb and passive resistance and waiting for a new war of liberation - that is the attitude of the Estonian people today.

Less than a year ago a set of CP bosses were removed for their inability to turn the Estonians into Communists. One of their successors has gone the same way and for the same reason. We venture to predict that Leonid Lentsman who has taken over his job will not be more successful.

THE MILITARY MEN IN THE SUPREME SOVIETS OF THE BALTIC REPUBLICS

In our issue No.215 we gave a list of the military candidates to Soviet Estonia's Supreme Soviet. Today we are in a position to give some more detailed data on the gentlemen whom the paper RAHVA HÄÄL so modestly calls "military men," omitting to speak of their rank.

Major-General K. A. Allikas we already mentioned; as regards the others, Nikolai Mikhailovich Kharlamov has the rank of admiral and is at present deputy chief of staff of the naval forces. Of course, he does not reside on the territory of the Estonian SSR but is one of those central figures who are set up as candidates to the Supreme Soviets of one constituent republic or another.

The remaining candidates are of a much lesser calibre and their being elected to Estonia's Supreme Soviet leads one to suppose that at present they are actually in service in Estonia. Two of them belong to the navy: they are Grigori Feodorovich Bystrikov, major-general of the land service, and Boris Lavrentievich Petrov, major-general of the air force. The former made his appearance in the Baltic fleet soon after the end of World War II and has been mentioned repeatedly as being in Kronstadt. In 1948-1949 he must have been in service in the Red Bannored Amur Fleet in the Far East as he several times wrote for the papers on subjects related to this fleet. His election to the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian SSR probably means that he is again serving in the Baltic fleet.

Next, the Hero of the Soviet Union, Major-General Leonid Ivanovich Vaghin was with the Soviet occupational forces in Germany as late as 1949 and appears to have been transferred to Estonia. Gheorgi Vasilievich Saveliev, who is a captain of the 3rd grade in the naval frontier guard - a force subordinated to the MGB -, and was awarded the Order of Lenin in February in connection with the 10th anniversary of the frontier guard forces, must be serving with a unit stationed in the Estonian SSR. No data are as yet available on Feodor Mikhailovich Medvedev. It is certain, however, that he is no prominent officer of either the land, naval or frontier guard forces of the USSR.

The papers of the other two Baltic republics - Latvia and Lithuania - are considerably franker with regard to the military candidates to their Supreme Soviets. Not only their rank but several times even the posts they hold have been mentioned.

In the Latvian SSR only three military men were elected to the Supreme Soviet if such stars of the first magnitude as Marshalls Voroshilov, Bulganin and Beria are not to be counted. The three are: in Riga - Hero of the Soviet Union, General of the Army Ivan Khristoforovich Bagramian, commander of the armed forces in the Baltic military district; in Līdopaja (Libau) - Lt.-General Vasili Filippovich Gherasimenko, deputy commander of the forces of the District; and in the Grīva

polling district (near Daugavpils, an important garrison town) - Lt.-General Aleksander Vasilievich Mukhin. Only as regards Mukhin the rank is passed by in silence on the list of candidates but on February 23, the anniversary of the Soviet army, Mukhin made a speech at a solemn meeting at the Riga Opera and the papers allude to him as Lt.-General.

In the Lithuanian SSR there were only two military candidates: Lt.-General Vladimir Romanovich Vashkevich, chief of staff of the Baltic Military District, and Major-General P. A. Lapkin, the new chief on the political section of the Baltic Military District who superseded Major-General Guliaiov on this post last year. In connection with the elections one more soldier was mentioned in Lithuania: Lt.-General Arkadi Nikolaievich Yernakov, who was a member of the central election committee to the Supreme Soviet from the organization DOSARM (Voluntary Society of Assistance to the Army). His military rank was not mentioned by the papers in this connection.

During the electoral campaign the ranks and posts of those military candidates who are commanders of troop detachments have not been mentioned. It is a rule of the Soviet press not to disclose the rank and name of the commander of any armed forces unit. As regards the chiefs and the staff personnel of military districts the papers are more outspoken - a tendency proved true also in this particular case.

From the above a guess might be hazarded as regards the boundaries of the Baltic Military District. Considering that prominent personages among the leadership of the Baltic Military District were set up as candidates to the Supreme Soviets of both Latvia and Lithuania but not of Estonia, it is possible that the Estonian SSR is not included in it but belongs to the Leningrad Military District.

L A T V I A

SHORTCOMINGS OF CP WORK IN RIGA

Already in September 1950, when A. Pelshe, secretary to the CC of the Latvian CP, wrote in CINA that Soviet Latvia is still full of unreliable elements and agents of the Western powers and the administration and Party organs are not sufficiently vigilant (there were many top level changes at the time), the greater share of the blame fell on the city of Riga as the seat of the above institutions. When the CC of the Latvian CP met for a plenary session on December 26-27, 1950, the second item on the agenda was a most disparaging report on the activities of the Riga Party committee. Finally, on January 25 of this year the 2nd session of the Riga executive committee discharged its hitherto chairman, Arnolds Deglavs and "elected" a Russian of Latvian extraction, Edgars Apinis, to replace him.

According to CINA of February 6, the 5th plenary session of the Riga Party committee had taken place on January 31, where severe criticisms were again levelled at CP work in the Latvian capital. It appears that the political and organizational work of the city and raion Party committees does not accord with the

directives of the Bolshovik party. Operative leadership of the primary organizations, selection of cadres, the active education of the Party in the genuine Bolshovik spirit and work with the masses do not enjoy the attention they deserve. Enterprises falling short heavily of the plan or lagging behind in Socialist competitions often hide behind the generally satisfactory results of the industries in the city and the separate raions.

The level of the political study circles in the primary organizations was found to be very low. The city and raion committees organize many meetings and discussions which may be instructive enough but control over results is weak and no pressure is exercised on the persons responsible for the work of enlightening the masses.

Extremely weak is Bolshovik vigilance in the primary organizations of the scientific institutions, universities, technical colleges and the theatre. The cadres of these institutions are infected with harmful ideas. Only too often ideological mistakes are admitted. Party and raion committees give the primary organizations no assistance worth mentioning in these matters and do not help them to unmask ideological deviations. Since the 7th plenary session of the CC of the Riga Party committee had discovered grave shortcomings in the tutorial and educational work of the Institute for Physical Culture and the same applies to schools in general. Ideological work at universities and schools is in a lamentable state and the Riga Party committee is directed daily to pay the greatest possible attention to their activities.

It was also maintained that the Party committee of the city has managed the recruitment of its instructors badly; the selection of cadres is neglected, the courses for secretaries of the primary organizations, many of whom have not even a middle-school education, are carelessly organized. In order to avoid mistakes in the selection of cadres the Party committees of the city and the raions must make every primary organization and even every individual comrade responsible for this important matter.

Discipline among CP functionaries and economic leaders must be intensified considerably. Party forces must be distributed better. In every industrial concern the Communists should be moved from the management to the productive departments in order that vigilance might become really effective. Political measures are required for the realization of plans and an effective struggle against infringements of labour discipline.

The above was said at the meeting by K. Novikov, CP secretary of the city of Riga, and F. Titov, second secretary of the CC of the Latvian CP. The conclusion is that the Soviet regime has great difficulties to overcome the passive resistance of the Latvians and the drawbacks of its own system.

~~SECRET~~

DIRECTOR, FBI

June 11, 1951

SAC, WFO

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OTHERWISE~~

Rerep of SA MALCOLM P. CARR dated June 8, 1951.

Refrep sets out information concerning banking houses with whom the subject has been in contact. They are as follows: (S) (u)

Girard Trust Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Washington Loan and Trust Company, Washington, D.C.
Marshall Bank and Trust Company, Marshall, Virginia

9999
(S) (u)

In view of Bureau letter dated December 11, 1950, in which this office was requested to discontinue further efforts to ascertain the sources of funds of the subject, no effort is being made to check with the above banking houses regarding the funds of the subject, but are being set out for future reference.

Refrep also sets out information concerning letters received by the subject from the following Army personnel: (S) (u)

Colonel EDWARD F. GLAVIN, Chief
Operations Division
Office of Chief, Psychological War
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C.

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(S) (u)

It is requested that the Bureau, through appropriate liaison with the Army, attempt to ascertain if the subject is assisting the Defense Department in any project at hand or the significance of these communications. (S) (u)

Enclosed herewith are several pieces of literature which have been made available as a result of a trash cover on the subject's residence at 3318 Rowland Place, N.W. These are being submitted for information to the Bureau and they need not be returned to this office. (S) (u)

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